Disciplinary proceedings against officers of Central Excise, Department of India

3918. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government are aware that some superintendents of 1986 batch of Central Excise Departments of Jaipur Commissionery have been superceded by many junior superintendents on grounds of disciplinary proceedings against them, despite having been acquitted by Jaipur Bench of Rajasthan Hight Court's judgement dated the 6th December, 1999;

(b) if so, the reasons for not promoting them to Assistant Commissioner, Group-'A';

(c) the action taken against officials responsible for delays;

(d) by when their promotion, to the post of Assistant Commissioner, Group-'A' is likely to be made; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE: (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) An official of Superintendent of Central Excise Commissionerate, Jaipur who was acquitted by Jaipur Bench of Rajasthan High Court vide judgement dated 6-12-1999 was notionally promoted to the grade of Superintendent of Central Excise with effect from 5-3-86 and his seniority in the grade was also fixed accordingly *vide* order dated 27-9-2000. His case for *ad-hoc* promotion was being processed. However, the DPC for *ad-hoc* promotion to the grade of Assistant Commisioner could not be held on account of stay granted by the Mumbai Bench of the Central Administrative Tribunal.

(d) and (e) The judgement of the Central Administrative Tribunal, Mumbai Bench has since been received. The matter is already under examination in regard to promotions to the grade of Assistant Commissioner in the light of the judgement.

Abolition of posts in Department of Economic Affairs

3919. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether steps have been taken to abolish three posts of Secretary/ Special Secretary and two Joint Secretaries in the Department of Economic Affairs,

besides abolishing 44 posts of Directors and below and 1675 posts in the Currency and Coinage Division which were targeted to be accomplished by July, 2001;

(b) the present status of the exercise if completed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASHEB VIKHE PATIL); (a) and (b) One post of Special Secretary has been abolished and another post of Special Secretary has been downgraded to the level of Additional Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs. The incumbent of the post of Chief Commissioner (NRI & Investment), a Secretary level post, has been transferred and the post is kept vacant pending approval of the proposal for restructuring of the India Investment Centre. In addition, one post at the level of Additional Secretary, two posts at the level of Joint Secretary and 39 posts at the level of Director and below have been abolished. Abolition of the remaining 5 posts below Director level is also under consideration. In the Currency and Coinage Division, 1698 posts have been abolished.

(c) Does not arise.

Import duty on maize

3920. PROF.A.LAKSHMISAGAR:

SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are planning to increase import duty on maize; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No Sir. There is no proposal to increase import duty on maize at present.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Condition of public and private sector banks

† 3921. SHRI RK: MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the condition of Public and Private Sector Banks has constantly been deteriorating;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.